



Issue Alert

*Issue Alerts are intended to provide information on current events
and provide perspective on a variety of issues.
The message below is being forwarded to our member commissions for their
consideration,
at the request of Business for Shared Prosperity.*

IT'S URGENT THE SENATE, THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC HEAR NOW FROM BUSINESS PEOPLE SUPPORTING A HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE.

The House voted as promised to raise the federal minimum wage, which has been stuck at just \$5.15 an hour since 1997. THE SENATE BATTLE WILL BE MUCH TOUGHER THAN THE HOUSE. The Senate is expected to consider the minimum wage bill beginning Wednesday January 17 or the week after.

During this critical time, we are greatly expanding our list of signatories in support of the statement of Business Owners and Executives for a Higher Minimum Wage. The sooner you sign-on to the statement, the sooner your support can make a difference. WE WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD SUPPORT as the bill moves through Congress to the President, and as states consider their own minimum wage legislation.

The statement is below with online sign up at
<http://www.businessforafairminimumwage.org>.

PLEASE SEND THIS E-MAIL to your networks to encourage others to sign on.

SIGNERS include Adnan Durrani, president of Condor Ventures and venture partner, Blue Chip Venture Capital; Eileen Fisher, chief creative officer, women's apparel company Eileen Fisher; Arnold Hiatt, former CEO, Stride Rite; Elliot Hoffman, CEO, New Voice of Business; Alex Von Bidder; president, The Four Seasons Restaurant; Robert Glassman, chair, Wainwright Bank; G. William (Bill) Foster, co-founder, Electronic Theatre Controls; Deborah Nelson, executive director, Social Venture Network; Jeffrey Hollender, president, Seventh Generation; Paul Lightfoot, CEO, AL Systems Inc.; Judy Wicks, president, White Dog Café; Doug Hammond, president, Relief Resources and co-founder, Business Alliance for Local Living Economies; Florence Sender, CEO, FoodLogic LLC; Jeff Milchen, co-founder, American Independent Business Alliance; Mal Warwick, chair, Mal Warwick Associates; Peter Barnes, co-founder, Working Assets; Lew Prince, co-owner, Vintage Vinyl, St. Louis; Marilyn Megenity, owner, Mercury Cafe, Denver; Rink Dickinson, president, Equal Exchange;

Peter Strugatz, CEO, IceStone; Charles Henderson, president, Chuck Roast Equipment; Shalon Hastings, owner, Taco del Sol, Helena; Jane and Donald Gilbert, Owners, Gilbert Farm, Leland, NC; Suellen and Keith Hazelton, owners, SueChef Fine Kitchenware, Oklahoma City, and many others.

Please join these signatories and many more around the country.

STATEMENT BY BUSINESS OWNERS AND EXECUTIVES FOR A HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE

We, the undersigned business owners and executives, support an increase in the minimum wage to benefit workers, business and our economy. We know that a minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour is simply not enough for workers to afford necessities for themselves and their families. We know that a fair wage floor is essential to healthy businesses and communities, and enduring economic growth.

We expect an increased minimum wage to provide a boost to local economies. Businesses and communities will benefit as low-wage workers spend their much-needed pay raises at businesses in the neighborhoods where they live and work.

Higher wages benefit business by increasing consumer purchasing power, reducing costly employee turnover, raising productivity, and improving product quality, customer satisfaction and company reputation. In a recent National Consumers League survey, for example, 76 percent of American consumers said "how well a company treats/pays employees influences what they buy."

States that have raised their minimum wages above the inadequate \$5.15 federal level have had better employment and small business trends than the other states. Studies by the Fiscal Policy Institute and others show that in states with minimum wages above \$5.15, the number of small businesses and the number of small business employees grew more than the other states

-- contrary to what critics predicted. Likewise, after the last federal minimum wage increases in 1996 and 1997, the nation experienced lower unemployment, low inflation, robust growth and declining poverty rates.

At \$5.15 an hour, today's minimum wage workers have less buying power than minimum wage workers had half a century ago. We cannot build a strong 21st century economy on a 1950s' wage floor. We cannot build a strong 21st century economy when more and more hardworking Americans struggle to make ends meet.

A fair minimum wage shows we value both work and responsible businesses. A fair minimum wage is a sound investment in the future of our communities and our nation.

SIGN ON TO THIS STATEMENT AT <http://www.businessforafairminimumwage.org>.

COMMENTS or QUESTIONS? PLEASE REPLY TO: Hez Norton at
hez@businessforsharedprosperity.org or call 857-928-0432.

For current list of signatories in formation see
http://www.letjusticeroll.org/pressroom/business_signatories.html.

Later, we will post the expanded list in formation at <http://www.businessforairminimumwage.org>.

Business Owners and Executives for a Higher Minimum Wage is a project of Business for Shared Prosperity in partnership with the Let Justice Roll campaign to raise the minimum wage at the state and federal level. www.letjusticeroll.org.

Business for Shared Prosperity is a new network in formation of forward-thinking business owners, executives and investors committed to building enduring economic progress on a strong foundation of opportunity, equity and innovation. For more information contact Hez Norton at hez@businessforsharedprosperity.org or 857-928-0432 OR Chuck Collins at chuck@businessforsharedprosperity.org.

THANK YOU!